



CITY SIDE

JUNE 2021

IOWAY CREEK FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

The South Duff Avenue area has experienced four major flooding events over a 20-year period that each significantly impacted area residents, businesses, and infrastructure. After a record-breaking flood in 2010, the City pursued a flood mitigation study to identify potential solutions. After many months of research by engineering experts, several options were identified. Unfortunately, those solutions came with significant price tags.

In 2020, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced a grant that included funding for Ames to implement the Ioway Creek flood mitigation project to lower flood levels in the South Duff Avenue area. The grant covers 75 percent of the project’s \$4.9 million cost or \$3.7 million. (The name of the creek was changed in early 2021.)

“Securing a federal grant to fund the Ioway Creek flood mitigation plan has been a huge step forward in our goal of lessening the impacts of future flooding,” said Municipal Engineer Tracy Peterson.

Just before April this year, trees along Ioway Creek for approximately 2,000 feet in each direction of South Duff Avenue were taken down. Because Story County includes endangered or threatened bat species territory, the trees had to be removed by the end of March prior to bats returning to the area to nest.

Cottonwood trees were harvested and recycled into wood pallets. Other larger hardwood trees were removed for furniture and wood trim. The remaining trees are being stockpiled until they are removed as part of a flood mitigation project later this year.

Once completed, the project is estimated to reduce flooding by two feet along the major flood damage center in the South Duff commercial and residential corridor. The plan includes channel excavation to improve creek capacity and resilience in large storm events. Additionally, the project will use stabilization techniques including natural channel design, stream bank toe protection, and planting native vegetation to increase protection to area development.



First phase



Completed

A WORK IN PROGRESS

The Ioway Creek flood mitigation project started with clearing trees. Trees along the banks can be undermined by high water and push flood waters out of the channel. While it looks barren now, removing trees is just the first step of the plan.

The creek channel bed will remain and the stream banks will be excavated to create more capacity. Pocket wetlands will be created within the newly graded area, and the land will be restored with rock and native vegetation.

CITY NEWS TO USE

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Facility Rentals
- Brookside Wading Pool to Open
- Park Naming Opportunity
- Fee Increases in July
- Consumer Confidence Report
- Energy Q&A

AMES ON THE GO:

Use our mobile reporting app to report concerns or issues quickly and directly to the City of Ames. Users can track requests and submit pictures. The Ames on the Go app is available through iTunes and Google Play stores, as well as the City of Ames website.



WATER RATE INCREASE TO BEGIN IN JULY

With the completion of the 2021-2022 fiscal budget, the City has identified one utility fee increase that will begin on July 1. Water rates will increase 6 percent.

The need for the proposed rate adjustment is a combination of multiple factors. A series of construction projects is planned over the next 10 years that is intended to accomplish three things: replace aging infrastructure; increase resiliency to both natural and man-made

disasters; and to stay ahead of anticipated growth in the Ames community.

Additionally, periodic adjustments are needed to keep pace with the increase in routine operating expenses such as chemicals, energy, and labor.

Residents can mitigate utility increases by looking for ways to conserve water. To learn more water conservation ideas, go to www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWater

NAME THAT PARK!

The renaming of Ioway Creek in early 2021 has created a new naming opportunity in the park system. We need your help to suggest names for the park located at 600 S. Maple. This public green space primarily serves as the host site for 63 community garden plots.

A renaming application is available at www.amesparkrec.org to submit suggestions by June 30. The applications will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Director with a recommendation forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Ames City Council will make a final decision on the name.

BROOKSIDE WADING POOL OPENS IN JUNE

The Brookside Wading Pool is scheduled to open Saturday, June 5. The Wading Pool is open daily, weather permitting, 11a.m to 4 p.m. There is a \$1 admission fee for all waders.

The Wading Pool, for children six years and under when accompanied by an adult, is a small circular zero-depth pool with a maximum depth of 18 inches.

As a reminder, the face covering ordinance is in effect until June 30 unless extended. Face coverings are required for those 3 years of age or older when outside and not able to stay least six feet from others who are not members of your household. Children playing in the water won't be required to wear a face covering.

FACILITY RENTALS AVAILABLE FOR SUMMER

Are you celebrating a retirement? Hosting a family reunion? Throwing a birthday party? Parks and Recreation has a number of facilities available to rent for any size



gathering and all different purposes. Park shelter rentals can be reserved through Oct. 15 by going online at www.amesparkrec.org or by calling 515.239.5350.

The new Homewood Golf Course Clubhouse is a year-round facility that features a large room available to rent for meetings, birthday parties, graduations, and more. For more information, please contact Nate Pietz at nate.pietz@cityofames.org

The Ames/ISU Ice Arena is available for camps, broomball, outings, birthday parties, and so much more. For more information, please contact Taylor Bassett at taylor.bassett@cityofames.org

The Ames City Auditorium, located in City Hall, and Durham Bandshell,



in Bandshell Park, are perfect venues for entertainment rentals including concerts and performances. For more information, contact Craig Kaufman at craig.kaufman@cityofames.org

The Furman Aquatic Center is available for private pool rentals. Basins can be rented separately or the entire facility can be reserved. Call 515.239.5350 for more information.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council meetings are held via Zoom.

6 p.m. Tuesday, June 8

6 p.m. Tuesday, June 15 (workshop)

6 p.m. Tuesday, June 22

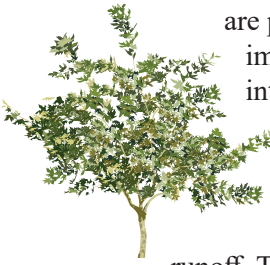
MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/CCMEETINGS



ELECTRIC

NATIVE TREE REBATE HELPS PLANT TREES

Spring is a great time to plant trees. People and the environment benefit from the many aspects of trees. Trees in urban environments are particularly important for intercepting rainfall before it becomes stormwater runoff. Tree leaves, branches, stems, and roots catch falling rain, filter out



pollutants, and absorb stormwater.

The Smart Watershed Program increases awareness of the importance of protecting our local streams and lakes. The program promotes methods to capture, filter, and reduce storm water runoff in residential areas.

Purchase and plant a native tree and get reimbursed up to \$75. For more information, visit: www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartWatersheds.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT AVAILABLE

The Consumer Confidence Report, the City's annual water quality report, is now available. This report contains important information about the quality of your drinking water.

At one time, the Consumer Confidence Report was included in your utility bill, but now the report is available to read online. This method of distribution helps promote our sustainability efforts and reduces costs. However, printed copies of the Consumer Confidence Report are still available.

If you would prefer to have a paper copy of the Consumer Confidence Report mailed to your home, call the Ames Water Plant at 515.239.5150. The water quality report can be viewed online at www.CityOfAmes.org/WaterReport



ECOCHATS



The City of Ames and Ames Public Library are partnering for EcoChats, a series of virtual lectures featuring City of Ames staff and focused on sustainability topics. The 2021 EcoChats will be held via Zoom at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month through August.

For more information and the Zoom link, visit: www.amespubliclibrary.org/events/month

Future EcoChats topics include:

- June 1: Water
- July 6: Watersheds
- August 3: Electric

For more information on the City's sustainability efforts, visit www.CityOfAmes.org/Sustainability

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

| | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| Power Out | 515.239.5240 | : |
| Street Light Out..... | 515.239.5500 | : |
| Utility Bills..... | 515.239.5120 | : |
| Energy Questions | 515.239.5177 | : |
| Tree Too Close to Electric Line? | 515.239.5500 | : |
| Digging? Contact Iowa One Call..... | 811 | : |
| Storm Water Concern..... | 515.239.5160 | : |
| Rusty Water..... | 515.239.5551 | : |

City Side is a publication of the City of Ames, Iowa
 Editor: Susan Gwiasda, Public Relations Officer
 Questions?
 515 Clark Ave. • Ames, IA 50010
 Phone: 515.239.5204 • www.CityOfAmes.org



ENERGY Q&A

Q: Does it matter what time of day I use electricity?

Yes, actually it does! The pattern of your energy usage (one big burst versus steady usage all day long) also matters. You can think about electricity going through wires like traffic on the road. If 100 cars use a certain street each hour of the day, that's



one thing. But imagine 2,400 cars wanting to use that road all in the same hour, and it is unused the other 23 hours in a day.

Electric infrastructure has similar types of constraints. So the more you can spread your electric usage out throughout the day, the better.

And one more consideration is the time of day that you're consuming electricity. Our utility as a whole experiences dramatic peaks in the late afternoon and evening hours on weekdays during the summer. So any electric consumption that you can easily defer to overnight is helpful to the system and helps keep rates low in the long-term.

Check your appliances for these features that allow you to adjust your electric usage to times of lower demand:

- Hit the '8 hour delay' button on your dishwasher instead of hitting 'Start' right after dinner.
- Schedule a smart water heater not to heat between 3 and 8 p.m. if it doesn't need to.
- If you set back your thermostat during the day, avoid setting it to 'catch up' during the peak – returning to a lower set point at 2 or 3 p.m. would be better than setting it to cool the house back down at 5 p.m., in the midst of the utility's highest demand.
- Electric vehicles can pull as much electricity as all the appliances in your house combined! Most chargers can schedule charging to start at 9 or 10 p.m. instead of right when you plug in the car.

Taking these actions to shift your energy consumption off-peak positively impacts our energy system.

Check out www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy for more information and rebates on all of these appliances!

Kayley Barrios Lain, Energy Services Coordinator
515.239.5177 | Kayley.Lain@cityofames.org

RENEWABLE ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

12.3% ELECTRICITY THIS MONTH
GENERATED FROM WIND
(OR 6,064,367 kWh)

3% 357 kWh ENERGY CHARGED
AT ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)
CHARGING STATIONS

26 LED STREET LIGHTS INSTALLED FOR A
TOTAL OF 4,720

0.2% SUNSMART COMMUNITY SOLAR FARM
GENERATED SOLAR ELECTRICITY
(OR 156,704 kWh)

DEGREE DAY INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
WWW.CITYOFAMES.ORG/ELECTRIC

INFORMATION

STUCK AT HOME: TRY A SELF-AUDIT

Are you looking for projects around the house? This could be a great time to evaluate the energy efficiency of your home!

Spend some time exploring your home's interior and exterior. Identify problem areas, and find a free do-it-yourself guide,

along with many other energy-saving resources at www.CityOfAmes.org/SmartEnergy.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Be careful and call Iowa One Call before you dig. Have your yard marked free of charge. Now it's even easier to call. You can call 800.292.8989 or just dial 811.